The Titusville Communicator

Official Publication of the Titusville Amateur Radio Club

WWW.K4KSC.COM

"Dedicated to the Promotion and Preservation of Amateur Radio in Central Florida, Across the United States, Around the Globe, and Throughout the Universe"

TARC APRIL SITREP

By Paul Fee, N6PDF

TARC President

Stop the Presses! Big News!

It's not often that I can legitimately claim to be bringing you HUGE news, but I'm also bringing you HUGE WONDERFUL news! If you're not sitting down, you probably should before you read on…

We have been notified by competent authority that the Titusville Amateur Radio Club has been awarded FIRST PLACE in the "Multi-Operator, Single Transmitter, SSB Voice" category for the 2023 Florida QSO Contest!!

Read that again, just to make sure…

Yes! We have won **1st Place** in a statewide contest!! This, being the the very first time that we have participated as a club in this contest, is a HUGE achievement and we owe an enormous debt of gratitude to Mr. Marty Grove - KJ4LQX for spearheading this effort and showing us how to be effective contesters. He has clearly shown us what is achievable, now it's up to us to carry this forward and dive into the world of contesting! The next opportunity is THIS WEEKEND with the 2024 Florida QSO Party!

See you Tuesday at 7 PM to make plans!

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Why is Contesting Valuable?

By Paul Fee, N6PDF

Given that our club has now successfully achieved winning a first place award in the 2023 Florida QSO Party, what does that mean for the future?

Contesting on the radio can be just a fun way to have friendly competition between different clubs and organizations, but there is a serious and valuable education that happens while contesting.

We learn how to organize. We learn how to plan ahead. We learn how to execute that plan, and when it's done correctly, we learn that we can achieve whatever it is we choose to achieve by putting everything together to further our knowledge and capabilities in Amateur Radio.

The more we participate in such events, the better we get at it.

I'm totally thrilled that TARC was able to achieve a 1st place result in our first try at the Florida QSO party, and it begs the question ~ how much more can we do?

This achievement was done with just two (2) active operators racking up contacts. Marty and Barry. Can you imagine how much more we can achieve if we had rotating teams of operators jumping in and searching out QSOs for the contest?

With the addition of computer logging, which REALLY speeds up the whole process and makes it much more accurate and efficient ~ we can now be "players" in the contesting world. Not just "participants" but actually standing toe-to-toe with groups that have been doing this for years. That would be a very worthy goal for our group to pursue and I'm hoping that this will light some fires underneath those who feel similarly.

Contesting is meant to be fun, but it's a real learning and reinforcing opportunity to hone and improve what we already know, and to expand our group's knowledge and abilities.

Thank you all very much for your ongoing participation in the Titusville Amateur Radio Club!

Volume I, Issue 4

April 2024

What's Happening:

- TARC April Activities
- Florida QSO Party
- Upcoming Events and Projects

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Go2 Antenna Review

by Roy Merritt – N4RKM

Like a lot of folks that visited the Orlando Hamcation, I too was bedazzled by all the neat and new toys for ham radio operators to play with. Ever on the lookout for portable operating stuff, I happened upon the TN07 Engineering booth, a small firm located in rural Tennessee. I met and chatted with, Bob - W4AZM, particularly about this new My Go2 antenna he was selling. It sounded like just the thing I am most interested in and they even had a picture of a guy operating his Icom 705 using this antenna from his boat. That got my attention right off.

Having seen and read all the typical sales stuff on it and seeing Bob's hand written note from a user regarding the SWR results he got, I was impressed, but skeptical. When asking about what kind of ground radials it required, Bob replied that it does not use ground radials and seeing my obvious next question, he went on to say that this antenna was a shunt fed antenna and does not use ground radials. Nodding my head politely, as if I knew what a shunt fed antenna was, I asked about the price. Wow! They are not inexpensive. But having said that, the hook was set and I knew I wanted one. I took a flyer, thanked Bob and moved on to the next bright and shiny toy as this needed some more thought and investigation.

When I got home from Hamcation and recovered my senses, I immediately set out to learn what I could about shunt fed antennas. To be honest, there is a good bit of information available, but a lot of it was engineering and technical stuff that kinda went well over my head. I did watch a couple of reviews on YouTube, and was finally convinced I needed one for myself to try. So, I bit the bullet and bought one. Below is the kit in all its glory:

(Con't on Pg 3)

Tom Statham Park is Radioactive!

From Cary Peaden—KY4YG

Yesterday morning, April 20th, Stephanie—KQ4KAL and I took our two portable amateur radio setups to the nearby Tom Statham Park and set them up on a picnic table, and we participated in "QRP Saturday" with some of my Ham Radio friends. Attached is a picture of the two of us and Jack Holmes (who is adjusting Stephanie's radio), and Ron.

Jack is a mentor (or "Elmer") for me. Steve Luchuk and Viron Payne were also with us (and they also mentors me), but they aren't in the picture. On either side of our picnic table (but outside of the picture) are the two 17.5 foot vertical antennas that we were using with our two radios. Stephanie and I are both still very new to Ham Radio.

Stephanie made her first long distance (High Frequency) amateur radio contact on this day. She talked with a man in Spain. I made 6 radio contacts.

One funny story, for maybe an hour, I pressured Stephanie to make her first contact, and Jack was very nicely helping Steph, but she was reluctant. Then Jack walked away to do something and I was focused on adjusting my radio, and all of a sudden I heard Stephanie talking and she was making her first contact. She did great!

Cary—KY4YG

Upcoming Topics of Discussion / Presentations

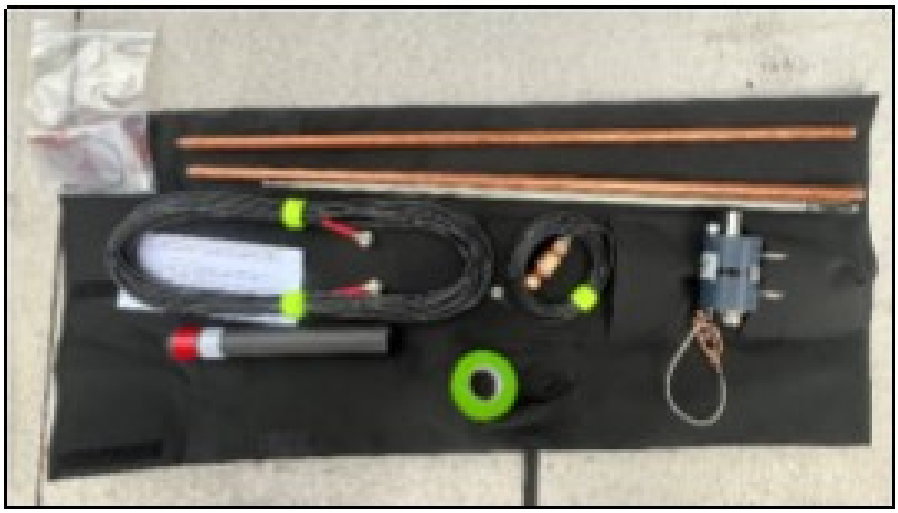
Our Vice-President, Mike—KC4JEM is giving a presentation this week on 3-D printing technology, and it will be a fascinating look into what it actually is, and how it can be incorporated into Ham Radio projects. There will be some examples of completed 3D printed materials for demonstration.

Coming up, is a presentation by Barry N4NMF on the Echolink system and how it can be utilized for local and regional communications. Roy—N4RKM will be doing a presentation on his new 6-band BuddiHex antenna system and showing us how it is improving his HF communications.

As always, we are actively interested in hearing from YOU on what inspires and energizes you in the Amateur Radio universe and please contact Mike—KC4JEM if you'd like to share anything about your enjoyment of our hobby for the group's enlightenment and entertainment!

Go2 Antenna Review Con't

The kit comes in a very rugged, black canvas roll-up style of bag with pockets to hold all the components. For storage and transport, it neatly rolls up into a tidy little bundle with a Velcro strap to keep it closed. The layout of the components was well though-out keeping everything easily accessible making it easy to find everything you need to quickly and efficiently set the antenna up.



Speaking of set up, setup time is probably about 10 minutes start to finish. It will probably take you longer to find a suitable place to set up than to actually set the antenna up.

Roy—

General Items of Interest

Upcoming Events:

2024 Florida QSO Party:

Object: Everyone works Florida, Florida works Everyone

Activate and work ALL Florida counties Have as much FUN as possible!

When: April 27& 28, 2024 Two ten hour operating periods, with a ten hour break:

Saturday, April 27 1600Z (Noon EDT) – April 28 0159Z (9:59 PM EDT) Sunday, April 28 1200Z (8 AM EDT) - 2159Z (5:59 PM EDT)

Exchange: RST and County (Florida stations) RST and QTH (State, Province or Country for non-FL)

Where: 10, 15, 20 and 40 Meters. QTH will be at Tom & Sally's place,

Information: https://floridaqsoparty.org/

Hams Helping Hams:

We've had some of our members ask for assistance in putting up, taking down, and repairing antennas and feedlines. If you would specifically like to make a request for assistance, please notify our club leadership and we'll try to help arrange for that assistance. If you know of anyone needing help, please bring it to the leadership and we'll help make it happen.

If you are willing to help out, let the TARC leadership know also! We'll need to get these folks together.

Items Needed for the Club:

There are several projects that are both ongoing and coming up that could benefit from your active participation. The ongoing repeater work, the trailer projects, and other activities that TARC is planning only happen with everyone pitching in and making them happen. Planning, designing, building, funding ~ all needed to make our club better and better! If you have some ideas and/or experience on how to do these things, or how to raise the cash to fund them, please step up and get involved.

Secretary – See March TARC Meeting Minutes Attached Below

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Titusville Amateur Radio Club

March 26, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Meeting Called to Order: 7:00 pm, by President Paul Fee, N6PDF, who welcomed all and noted that we had a great gathering of members (28 in attendance.) Also mentioned was the great turn-out for the Mosquito Net Anniversary Tailgate, and thanked all those involved; followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, led by Vice President, KC4JEM.

Quorum Present? Yes

Membership Introductions: Self Introductions

New members: Tim, KQ4MSN; Dave, KA1UIK; Ed, KG4LKQ.

Visitors: Gary Hayward, KJ4BOJ, of NBARC; Bill Weiler, WA0OST, CAP.

Last Meeting Minutes Approved as Published: Yes Unanimously

Treasurer's Report: Approved: Yes Unanimously

Agenda:

Old Business

1. Repeater Status Update:

a. 146.97, Up and running; 146.775, Denman Repeater, FPL power still not available, work in progress; 146.91, up and running.

b. Possible new Site at Parrish Medical Center: President, N6PDF, introduced Gary Hayward, KJ4BOJ, gave update: antenna now available at the PMC.

2. Annual Mosquito Net Anniversary Tailgate at Fox Lake Park, on March 23, 2024.

a. Paul, N6PDF, Good turn-out. Big Thank You to volunteers!

b. Raffle Prize Winners: Jerry Phelps, KJ4IMP: Mini-computer w/Monitor & Keyboard; and Steve Woodruff, KD9LUT: Super Antenna.

c. Many attendees did stick around for the grand prize drawing at 2:00pm, as was hoped.

d. Stephanie, K4MVO, Raffle: We sold 160 tickets, but needed to sell at least 270 to break even. AA4HP RSC, Inc. paid for almost all of the prizes, and she has donated the $ to cover the difference. (HRO in Oviedo donated a YETI mug, and Beef O'Brady's Garden St. Donated $25 Gift Certificate. If we want to do this again: we should probably start earlier to sell more tickets, and get more prizes donated.

e. Steve Woodruff, KD9LUT, donated the $ 20 HRO Gift Certificate back to TARC.

f. Roy, N4RKM, Gross Food Sales: $235, he donated the food, so all goes to TARC.

g. Stephanie, K4MVO, reminded everyone that volunteers were offered tickets to eat free; and Vendors were given a Free Coffee (1 Mosquito) Ticket.

New Business:

1. Bill Weiler, WA0OST: Brevard County Emergency Management (EOC) is looking for volunteers for distribution centers when needed.

2. Bill Weiler, WA0OST: Mentioned current ARRL and HOA antenna legislation, Congressman Posey is behind this bill.

3. Barry, N4NMF, reminded everyone of our on-going nets.

4. Keith, KN4AJQ, recognized Wesley Baker, N4PDT, is now a Silent Key. No memorial service planned.

Program: Mike, KC4JEM: Wolf River Vertical, coil, w/Silver Bullet 1000 Platinum

1. Demonstrated how it is easy to assemble. Uses an aluminum screen door mesh/panel for ground plan. Great for tight spaces such as apartment patios.

2. 50/50 Tickets: No tickets thus no drawing.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:55 pm. Respectfully submitted by TARC Secretary

Stephanie Phillips, K4MVO